

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 029265
ORIGIN H-02

INFO OCT-01 ONY-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 /003 R

DRAFTED BY H:SG:DJPETRICH
APPROVED BY H:JBENNET, JR.
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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O 031658Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029265

FOR AMBASSADOR JORDEN FROM SENATOR HEINZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PN

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SENATOR HEINZ TO GENERAL TORRIJOS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A MESSAGE FROM SENATOR HEINZ WHICH
HAS BEEN POUCHED TO YOU, BUT IN THE INTEREST OF SPEED IS
BEING SENT TELEGRAPHICALLY.

BEGIN MESSAGE: JANUARY 31, 1978

DEAR BILL,

HERE IS THE LETTER, WHICH WE DISCUSSED. THANK YOU FOR
OFFERING TO BE THE MIDDLE MAN;

WITH BEST PERSONAL REGARDS,

SINCERELY,
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PAGE 02 STATE 029265

JOHN

P.S. THE VISIT WAS INVALUABLE AND GREATLY APPRECIATED
BY ALL OF US -- YOUR PLANNING AND HOSPITALITY WAS
IMMACULATE;

2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER WHICH SENATOR HEINZ DISCUSSED WITH YOU FOR PASSAGE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE TO GENERAL TORRIJOS.

BEGIN TEXT

UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

JANUARY 31, 1978

BRIGADIER GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS HERRERA
CHIEF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND
COMMANDER OF NATIONAL GUARD
REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

DEAR GENERAL TORRIJOS:

I AM WRITING TO CLARIFY OUR CONVERSATION OF JANUARY 28TH AT FARALLON. IN GENERAL, I VIEW THE CONVERSATION AS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT BOTH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR NATION'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE AND FOR THE FORMULATION OF MY VIEWS ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES.

AT THE MEETING WITH OUR DELEGATION ON SATURDAY, I ASKED IF YOU INTEND TO ENACT LEGISLATION WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE
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YEARS TO GIVE POLITICAL PARTIES FULL PARTICIPATORY RIGHTS IN THE PANAMANIAN POLITICAL PROCESS. SPECIFICALLY I WAS REFERRING TO THE REPEAL OF THE DECREE BANNING POLITICAL PARTIES AND ADOPTION OF A NEW LAW GUARANTEEING PARTIES THE RIGHT TO EXIST AND FUNCTION FREELY, TO RUN CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION, AND TO MOBILIZE IN SUPPORT OF CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL VIEWS BY THE USUAL MEANS AVAILABLE IN FREE AND DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES. THE LATTER, OF COURSE, INCLUDES UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO THE NATION'S PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA. AS YOU WILL RECALL, ROMULO ESCOBAR BETANCOURT, YOUR CHIEF NEGOTIATOR, ALSO INDICATED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THIS LAW. YOUR RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION WAS THAT YOU WILL ENACT SUCH A LAW "MUCH SOONER" THAN FIVE YEARS.

I ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO YOUR STATEMENTS AT OUR MEETING ON SATURDAY. I ALSO HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND MY INTEREST IN SEEING THOSE STATEMENTS MADE MORE EXPLICIT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS

IS A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE, AND I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE

A LETTER FROM YOU CLARIFYING AND ELABORATING ON YOUR
RESPONSE BOTH WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTENT OF SUCH A
LAW THAT YOU WOULD INTEND TO ENACT AND THE TIMING OF
SUCH ENACTMENT.

AT THE SAME TIME, PLEASE PERMIT ME TO EXPRESS MY THANKS
TO YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY, AS WELL AS
THAT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA I MET.

SINCERELY,

/S/ H. JOHN HEINZ, III

UNITED STATES SENATOR

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL
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Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Copy: <CONCATENATED>
Draft Date: 03 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Expiration:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: LETTER FROM SENATOR HEINZ TO GENERAL TORRIJOS
TAGS: PGOV, PN, (HEINZ, H JOHN), (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
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